# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

## Council approves FlyingTee rent as payable to MCN

#### NC approves bill for CNG station in Glenpool

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Nov. 21 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

• TR 15-202 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a patient transfer agreement on behalf of MCN Department of Health with St. John Medical Center Inc. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement is aimed at helping MCNDH efficiently and effectively manage its services. St. John Health System operates six hospitals and five urgent care centers around northeast Oklahoma. According to www. thefreedictionary.com, a patient transfer agreement is, 'a written hospital agreement between two healthcare institutions for

the transfer of patients from one to another and the orderly exchange of pertinent clinical information on the patients transferred.'

• TR 15-203 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a support summary agreement on behalf of MCNDH with GE

Council - 6

# Future MCN involvement with River project uncertain



INN File Photo

Those involved with the Tulsa Arkansas River Infrastructure Task Force have voiced their intention to approach the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for a financial contribution towards two proposed low water dams. This is in an effort to increase water levels in the portion of the river that runs through the Tulsa area, part of which flows near the tribe's Margaritaville themed expansion at River Spirit Casino in south Tulsa, Okla.

#### Citizen reported missing in Eufaula

## Unknown person seen dropping of truck

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Peggy McGuire was reported missing Nov. 16 from Eufaula.

Investigators, family and friends have spent the last two weeks or more searching for clues, leads and answers regarding the disappearance of the 29-year-old.

McGuire is described as 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 140 pounds and having curly blonde hair and blue eyes.

McGuire was last seen dropping her 8-year-old son off at school in Canadian.

She has not been heard from since around 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 16.

"If we get somebody that



Internet image

seen that truck anytime after Monday at 10 o'clock that would be a lead," McGuire's stepfather Donnie Davis said.

Surveillance video shows McGuire's Toyota truck driving into the parking lot of TJ's Ice House, a bar on Hwy. 9, west of Eufaula on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 17.

"It was in the rain when the

Missing - 4

# Task force voices intention to approach MCN for funding

This story has been updated after initial online publication for the inclusion of an interview with MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Arkansas River Infrastructure Task Force has finalized a plan, which involves financing two low-water dams to raise water levels in the portion of the Arkansas River that runs through the Tulsa area.

Members of the task force plan to ask the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to help pay a portion of the estimated \$242.7 million cost for the project.

"We're waiting on a firm number or request from the task force for the participation by the Creeks and at that point, it will be a decision by the Council and the chief," Vic Vreeland, consultant on economic development and governmental affairs for MCN

said.

The project, which also involves development at Turkey Mountain and trails on both sides of the river, would reportedly provide better water flow near the tribe's Margaritaville themed expansion at River Spirit Casino in south Tulsa and at the RiverWalk complex in Jenks.

"Because as you know, there's going to be a beach theme but we don't have any water in the river at times," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said of RSC.

The dams would back up water to create two lakes, one of which would extend past downtown.

"Another one that is probably of more interest to the tribe is

River - 4

#### Principal chief-elect discusses initial outlook

# Floyd addresses housing, budget concerns

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In an interview with 'Native News Today,' Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief-Elect James Floyd addressed concerns and ideas he has for MCN during his upcoming term.

#### Background

In his previous job experience, Floyd said he would be briefed on problems and issues, and would jump into his position quickly.

"Here, there's a little more time fortunately so I can begin to know some of the issues and the people involved," Floyd said. "But the approach is very similar."

Floyd said that he is more familiar with the people, families and communities involved in his new position, which helps personalize the effort for him.

Floyd earned a master's degree in public administration/health administration from Portland State University in 1990. He has a bachelor's degree in allied health administration from Northeastern State University.

His work experience includes a 35-year executive background with MCN, the U.S. Office of Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health Service.

Floyd served as the director of the Jack C. Montgomery Medi-

Outlook - 3

#### **ATTENTION**

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# Principal chief reflects on term in office

# Tiger talks business, media and politics

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' sat down with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger to talk about his time in office.

Tiger began with his inauguration speech.

"One of the things I said was status quo is not longer acceptable and we were going to be aggressive. We are going to be diverse in some of the things we were going to do and I believe we did that," Tiger said.

After taking office, Tiger along with cabinet members and citizens developed a strategic plan for his four-year term. He felt it was important to include a variety of people with different strengths to be able to make a difference for the future.

There were specific areas the strategic plan targeted.

#### Health care

Tiger wanted to improve the MCN health care system.

"Citizens were saying that they needed assess to health care facilities that were closer to their areas," Tiger said. "And needed more access to having more resources in health care."

This included the purchase of the former George Nigh Rehabilitation Center, now known as the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center and the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, which was renamed the MCN Medical Center, both located in Okmulgee.

Tiger remarked on the OMH acquisition because the Nation did not spend any funds to purchase the facility.

"We had heard that the hospital was having a hard time in being able to meet the salaries and being able to keep the doors open on a

Reflects - 3

#### **Behavioral Health Services provides HIV** education to community

#### Depression, mental illness linked to disease

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinators

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 218 Native Americans were diagnosed with HIV infection in 2013.

While this number may not seem significant, the CDC also reports that Native Americans have the highest rates of diagnosed HIV infections due to injection drug use when compared with other races.

HIV is a virus that weakens a person's immune system so that they are unable to fight off infection. HIV can develop into AIDS

when the immune system is badly damaged, or your CD4 T cell count is very low.

HIV can transmitted be through injection drug use, sex and homemade tattoos and piercings.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services Case Manager and HIV/ hepatitis C tester and counselor John CoCké said some people still believe the myths about HIV transmission.

"People are very unaware and uneducated when it comes to knowing about different STIs, different ways of getting HIV," CoCké said. "I still do presentations all over our Creek jurisdiction and there are people that still think you can get it from a mosquito

For World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, HIV and Hepatitis C testing was provided through a College of the Muscogee Nation grant specifically for students, but also was available to community members.

CoCké relayed the importance of being tested.

"There's so many people walking around that still don't know their status and everybody should know their HIV

status," he said.

CoCké said that testing positive for HIV or hepatitis C is no longer the death sentence that it was years ago. Now there is a cure for hepatitis C, and a prevention drug for those at risk of contracting HIV called PreP.

If an individual tests positive, they are referred to a case manager and resource center to help with medication and counseling.

"We do recommend that you see a counselor because you're going to be going through all kinds of emotional things and depression will set in," CoCké said.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, de-

> pression and mental illness have been linked to individuals with HIV/AIDS. Depression can affect a person's quality of life and cause them to stray from their treatment plan. According to www.

> > aids.gov, individuals

with HIV/AIDS

are at a risk of depression because of stress due to loss of a support tem, dealing s y swith the stigma of the disease and the daily disease management.

CoCké believes that lack of education is to blame for HIV/ AIDS infections in Indian Country as well as the hesitancy to talk about sex.

According to the U.S. Indian Health Service website, sexual behavior, as well as drug and alcohol abuse make Indian Country vulnerable to the dis-

Other MCN HIV/AIDS educational events and testing will be held within the next year.

For more information about future events or MCN Behavioral Health Services, call: 918-224-9307.

If you or someone you know is HIV positive and lives in northeastern Oklahoma, visit: www.tulsacares.org to learn more about the services available.

According to www.aids.gov, individuals with HIV/AIDS are at a risk of depression because of stress due to loss of a support system, dealing with the stigma of the disease and the daily disease management.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation and City of Okmulgee officials of the along with citizens of the community gathered Nov. 20 at the corner of 6th and Muskogee streets for an unveiling of the first of several bilingual street signs in English and Mvskoke in the downtown Okmulgee, Okla., area.

#### Okmulgee celebrates Mvskoke heritage with street signs

#### Tribal language featured in downtown Okmulgee

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Bilingual street signs in English and Myskoke have been installed in the downtown Okmulgee area.

There was an unveiling ceremony for the first sign Nov. 20 at the Harlan Ford parking lot on the corner of 6th and Muskogee streets.

Okmulgee City Mayor Ste-

ven Baldridge said MCN is a valuable partner and the city is proud to display the native Mvskoke language.

"As citizens and visitors alike venture downtown, this is just a small way to show our appreciation to Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Baldridge said.

Baldridge said he was amazed to see the accomplishments possible when all involved parties work together.

"I feel like we have a sense of community here in Okmulgee and we are truly making this a

better place and a great place for us and our children and the next generations," Baldridge said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger felt this was a historic occasion and honored Muscogee (Creek) elders who have passed

"As a young child having grown up here in Okmulgee, I remember running around that lawn while the elders took care of our business upstairs and we have gone from that to today doing this is certainly a historic occasion," Tiger said.

MCN National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola spoke at the ceremony. He felt the signs were a way to honor and preserve the history of Okmulgee.

Yahola said in the future he hopes to see the sign for Muskogee street changed to represent the traditional spelling of Mvs-

"Hopefully in a couple years, you'll have to change the way it is spelled because I am going to offer an amendment to spell it the traditional way, but we have to go through a process but we will take care of that," Yahola said.

CCA Interim Director Justin Giles believes the street signs are more representative of the Okmulgee community than the previous signs.

The street signs are one of the changes to downtown area as part of the community revitalization effort known as Okmulgee Rising.

### Structurally insulated panels available for public purchase

#### **Efficiency construction** material available for public purchase

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The structurally insulated panels plant in Wetumka is growing. It was transferred to Onefire Holding Company LLC who placed it under Edo Building Systems.

"We're in the process of expanding the plant or a different facility, something. We've got to the point, we've got to have some more space," Production Sales Manager Billy Graff said.

Graff said the plant is producing panels for many of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's construction projects, such as the new hospital in Okemah and the Reintegration building in Henryetta.

SIPs offer energy saving benefits and save time during con-

"If you do a total envelope, I am talking about a floor, walls, ceiling, a total envelope of a SIPs house; the energy efficiency savings in the first year is probably going to be in the 30-40 percent range," Graff said.

Graff explained that they have

the capability to work from blueprints to make panels to specification, which are numbered for easier installation. "You can literally have an av-

erage size 1,800-2,500 square foot house, you can have it stood and dried in, in two days with a good crew," Graff said. The panels are available for

purchase by individuals as well as contractors.

"They are available to anyone who wants to purchase them," Graff said. "We will sell one or 5,000. It doesn't matter."

The panels can be purchased by square footage or per job.

Graff said the cost varies, the more basic the panel, the less expensive they are.

As an example Graff explained that a 4x8 foot panel with no wire chases and no window cuts begins in the \$4.50 a square foot range.

One determining price factor is the thickness of the panel.

"They vary from three inch up to 12 inch, depending on what you are going to use them for, you know. The R-value you are trying to achieve," Graff said.

According to the Energy Star website, 'R-Value is a measure of insulation's ability to resist heat traveling through it. The higher the R-Value the better the thermal performance of the insulation.'

Graff explained insulation in most new homes is an R-value of 14-19, but a six-inch SIPs panel has the equivalent of 24 R-value.

"I would say the standard is probably a six-inch panel and you are looking at an R-24 value on insulation value on it," Graff said.

For more information about SIPs, call: 918-518-6701 or email info@edobuildingsystems.com.

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#### REFLECTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN File Photo

monthly basis," Tiger said. "We assumed a \$5 million plus debt that we were able to retire in about a 18-month period."

In order to expand the quality of care, urgent care clinics were developed in Okemah and Okmulgee to lessen patient wait times. Also, construction began on a new hospital facility in Okemah and a new clinic in Eufaula.

#### **Economic development**

Tiger said he wanted to move away from what he the stereotypical smoke shop and casino type of economic development to incorporate diversity.

One of the first major purchases in his term was the RiverWalk complex. Tiger said the purchase immediately increased the Nation's assets by \$36 million.

Tiger addressed critics of the purchase.

"It does two things: it diversified our economic possibilities development and it also increased our land base," Tiger said. "But more importantly, it was directly across from our casino, our 81st and Riverside."

Tiger said the RiverWalk purchase was in line with the strategic plan.

"We didn't just blatantly or arbitrarily look at RiverWalk like, 'hey let's just do it,' " Tiger said. "It was a great buy. Where else can you get a \$47 million project for \$11.5 million?"

In terms of development for RiverWalk, MCN started a joint venture to create an anchor tenant with the FlyingTee golf entertainment venue, which Tiger said is slated to open in late 2016.

Tiger felt that the oversight of RiverWalk should have been moved to the Onefire Holding Company LLC sooner than it was.

"Once Onefire got the oversight, you could start to see the positive results," Tiger said. "I see that continuing. There is a great deal of momentum."

Another purchase was the former Okmulgee Country Club. Tiger said the purchase was not about acquiring a country club or a golf course.

"We purchased it because it was a prime piece of property that was in our capital city of Okmulgee...It just happened to be a golf course," Tiger said.

Tiger said the property is being considered as a housing area for veterans.

Tiger spoke about accusations that the Nation is in financial hardship.

"Our portfolio financially is outstanding regardless of the talk that the tribe is broke and that we didn't have any money and all that. Well, that certainly isn't the case," Tiger said.

#### Transparency

Tiger said one of the goals of his administration transparency in every aspect.

"This administration was the first in almost 30 years that actually provided a semi-annual report that showed where funding or monies were being spent, how they were being spent," Tiger said. "It was sent to every household that gets our newspaper."

Tiger believes there was some 'misinformation' regarding the forensic audit.

Tiger said the final report included a summary of findings.

"That's all it was, a summary. premier casino site there at It doesn't say that people did wrong," Tiger said. "It just brings out the fact that these are things that we were told."

> Tiger said he welcomed the audit and reiterated that his work with the MCN National office did not interfere with the investigation.

"It was only at a time whenever there was sensitive personal, confidential information of our tribal member's that was going to be looked at that we knew we had to take a stand, not to interfere but to protect our citizens," Tiger said.

Tiger called himself a proponent of free press and believes that as someone who worked in broadcast his administration gave the greatest opportunity for free

"I believe that with our radio, our television, our newspaper, this administration allowed for them to have many more opportunities than any other administration to be able to report and write freely," Tiger said.

He did question the recent independent press legislation by saying he felt it needed to be tweaked because he felt it had a lot of 'loop holes.'

Tiger said he asked for improvement from Nation's media outlets and said he hopes the citizens are served well.

"I think it's important that they continue with the ability to provide the best available resources for our tribal members to have," Tiger said.

#### Looking to the future

Tiger felt that his time in office has made him a stronger person.

In his personal life, his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer in January while caring for his mother-in-law, who also has cancer.

At the same time, he felt there was posturing between his office and the National Council.

"I became very strong. I didn't allow those things to interfere with what I am supposed to be doing as principal chief," Tiger said.

Tiger felt that sometimes people forget everyone is 'in this together.'

Tiger believes his administration leaves a solid foundation for the incoming administration.

Tiger said accomplishments during his tenure would not have been possible without the ability to Council.

"When leave we. December as administration, our Nation will be very strong financially, very strong in many areas," Tiger said. "We're pleased that we had the opportunity to do things I said during my inauguration speech."

#### OUTLOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN File Photo

cal Center in Muskogee from 2012-2015. He announced his retirement from the facility June

Floyd discussed circumstances surrounding the turmoil of the VA Health Care System and a specific case covered in a story produced by KJRH.

Floyd said that veteran's health care was politicized during the time period he served as director of the Muskogee facility, enticing local media outlets to seek out stories regarding Oklahoma facilities.

In coverage by KJRH, a pregnant veteran was outsourced to a civilian doctor for care.

The veteran said that a procedure was denied by the VA, which resulted in the loss of her unborn child. The veteran raised concerns of negligence by the VA. Floyd said that the matter was investigated.

"They found no basis for that and so we moved on," he said. "We cooperated with them fully and continued to provide care."

A report believed to be regarding the case titled, 'Healthcare Inspection: Quality of Care and Access to Care Concerns Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center Muskogee, Oklahoma' is available on the VA Office of the Inspector General website. The report is dated June 16.

"We did not substantiate the facility delayed and denied NVCC (Non-VA Care Coordination) maternity care consult requests. We found that the information patients receive in a document titled "Jack C. Montgomery Fee Basis Pregnancy Process" as well as the NVCC maternity care providers' authorization document is ambiguous at least when applied to select

"In summary, we found the facility's written instructions authorizing NVCC maternity care services to be problematic, especially within the context of a known high-risk pregnancy. However, we did not find the facility uncooperative or to have delayed authorization of NVCC maternity care requests or additionally requested studies for suspected pregnancy complications."

Floyd said that he will apply his process of cooperation with the VA investigations to concerns with the tribe, by being open and honest and allowing investigators to review needed records.

#### Housing concerns

The 'Muscogee Nation News' published a story concerning MCN Housing Department waivers in the Nov. 15 edition, and follow up coverage in the Dec. 1 edition.

The coverage outlined alleged violations of MCN and U.S. Housing and Urban Development policy regarding waivers for individuals to be prioritized on the housing waiting list.

"I understand that the Office of the Inspector General was at the housing office," Floyd said. "Having worked with them before in my previous roles, they're fairly independent, and so I know they wouldn't share anything with me, but I would certainly want to keep abreast of any investigations that progresses."

'MNN' contacted OIG to inquire about the investigation.

"We do not comment on audits, and will publish our results to our website once the audit is complete," OIG Communications Director Marta Metelko said in a written statement.

Floyd said that if any recommendations are made in the report, that they will follow them. He said he has yet to meet with MCN Housing representatives regarding the issue.

#### Transition and budget

Floyd said he has met with different MCN employees in planning the inauguration and beginning the transition for his official first day Jan. 4, 2016.

"...I believe that we all have the same goal in mind and that's to make sure that the tribe continues to run smooth, that we take care of people," Floyd said.

One concern that Floyd said he has been approached with is fears of employees being laid off once his administration takes

"We do have to look at the organization and there will be some reorganization," he said. "But reorganization doesn't equate to mass layoffs."

Floyd said that once he takes office, he will analyze how to enhance efficiency, but that the focus will not be on individual people or positions.

"We need to look at what the mission of the tribe is, how we deliver the services and the end point being what is being received by the citizens of our tribe," Floyd said.

One issue that Floyd said he will need to address is the purported 2016 budget shortfall.

"My concern is that we address the shortfall without affecting the jobs and people, that we can still provide the services that citizens need.

"I think cursory review with people that we've had so far has identified some areas where we can make some cutbacks within our administrative parts of our budget without affecting the programs and without affecting the staff. That won't provide everything," Floyd said.

He said his plans are to maximize the Nation's revenue in areas such as economic development and health care to bridge the remaining financial gap and work with the MCN National Council to negotiate the 2016 budget.

From the campaign trail, Floyd said he kept notes of citizens' concerns and ideas for MCN.

"I will refer to those in the future as we go forward because there is a lot of validity in the points that they brought up and I don't want to lose that," he said. "I want to make sure I keep it in perspective as I make decisions."

The 2016 MCN Principal Chief, Second Chief and National Council Inauguration will be held at 10 a.m., Jan. 2, 2016 at the Myskoke Dome in Okmul-

'NNT' plans to live stream the event on their YouTube page www.youtube.com/user/ MCNCommunications1.

For more information about the live stream event, visit: www. facebook.com/NativeNews-CW19.



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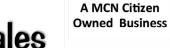




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#### RIVER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

creating a dam around 103rd and Riverside Drive that would create a lake running up to 71st street," Tulsa City Councilor and task force chair G.T. Bynum said.

Tiger cited possible contributions mentioned for the tribe also stating that further input would have to be gathered from the involved parties including the MCN National Council.

"I've heard everything from \$15 million to \$25 million for that one that would basically be just down the river from us," Tiger said.

The proposal is an extension of Vision 2025, which was approved by voters Sept. 9, 2003 to pass a one-penny sales tax increase for 13 years in Tulsa County, 'to grow economic and community infrastructure for future generations' according to the project website.

Vreeland said a vote to renew funding for Vision 2025 is planned for spring of next year.

"It will go to a general vote and they're proposing to do that right now in the spring, which will be far enough in advance of the Tulsa mayoral election that it shouldn't have an effect one way or the other," Vreeland said.

Bynum recently announced his candidacy to challenge incumbent Dewey Bartlett and if they remain the only contenders, the mayoral election will be Nov. 8. If not, a primary election will be held June 28.

MCN Principal Chief-Elect James Floyd said both candidates have contacted him about the project.

"I think the other aspect of this whole thing in Tulsa is the mayoral election that is coming up in a few months and both

candidates wanting to speak with me and the tribe regarding our role in that," Floyd said. "The approach I've taken with that so far since I'm not in office yet is I've not spoken to either group."

Tiger voiced concerns about how the mayoral election would influence the tribe's role.

"I don't want this to come down to Muscogee (Creek) Nation being used as a political football for the mayor's race because I believe we're much more than that...We have impacted the City of Tulsa, the County of Tulsa, the Jenks area with our capabilities and resources that we have to impact it economically," he said.

Floyd shared up front intentions about distributing MCN resources throughout the tribal jurisdiction.

"I know Tulsa holds a lot of promise in terms of economic development but we also have people in the south end, say in Holdenville, and areas like Yeager that also need economic development," he said.

He outlined how this would impact his discussion with project officials when he takes office.

"We'll have to enter into some negotiation with them and I think it will work for us but we'll have to look at what their expectations are and what our capabilities are and then other needs throughout the Nation," Floyd said.

Tiger mentioned some logistical difficulties with developing south of Interstate 40, saying that his office had recognized the potential for a gaming resort at Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Eufaula as an example.

"Not to say that there isn't a project out there that can't meet what needs to be done in that area," Tiger said. "Everything that we anticipated and considered to some large degree, the feasibility

studies were returning time wise, it wasn't something that we could

He contrasted this with the Tulsa area.

"We know right now what we do in Tulsa, whatever return we have on our investments, whether it be providing more services, adding to the services in terms of financial capabilities right now, is what we're doing in Tulsa," Tiger

MCN National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee Chairman Robert Hufft said the Council had not been informed about any involvement by the Nation.

"Do we support it? Yes, we support it but financially supporting, at this point in time, no one has approached the Council and at this point in time, it'd be hard pressed for us to support anything along those financial lines in my opinion," Hufft said.

Tiger explained how negotiations were handled between outside parties and the legislative branch.

"We do our studies, we have people come back to let us know whether it's feasible or not and if at that time it is, then we present it to the National Council so they wouldn't know anything about it," Tiger said. "It's not keeping anything secret; it's how this government works."

Hufft, who is the Tulsa District representative, explained his concerns further.

"Financially wise, the Council's not really going to contribute to something like that. Yes, it would help us but it benefits the city itself, the state itself more than us to some degree," Hufft said.

Bynum said they are looking at how the cost will be shared.

"Right now where we are is we have the overall plan, which our task force has reviewed and

now we're working on dividing up the share of costs between the different stakeholders," Bynum said. "The remaining stakeholders involved are the City of Tulsa, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tulsa County and the City of Jenks."

This has been narrowed down from 10 different communities in the projected \$748.8 million Vision2 measure that failed in November 2012, which also included a low water dam proposal.

"Before, it was a countywide issue so you had people from Owasso, Broken Arrow, Bixby, Glenpool and Sand Springs who were voting on it but really didn't receive a direct benefit from it," Vreeland said. "I think whenever anything like that goes in, everybody in the region

receives benefit from it but they haven't had a direct benefit so that automatically had some no votes there."

Vreeland, who was Jenks mayor for 24 years, said Tiger asked him to represent MCN after he had stepped down from his position and Tiger was elected into office.

"He approached me to be the Creek representative on all the low water dam discussions because of all my previous experience on all the low water dam stuff," Vreeland said.

He outlined this experience.

"...I've been involved in development of the river longer than anyone on the task force and was one of the main people involved with the initial passage of Vision 2025 and this is an extension of Vision 2025," Vreeland said.

#### MISSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pick-up was dropped off," Davis said. "That was 5:40 in the morning."

An unknown person can be seen walking away from the vehicle in the video.

"If anybody at that time had seen a vehicle parked on the side of the road that they could get into or if they seen that person walking down nine or anywhere else... Seen anything or know anything; for sure need to let us know," Davis said.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation has taken on the case and is processing the truck for clues of McGuire's whereabouts.

Anyone with quality information is asked to come forward.

"If they don't know something for sure, don't put it

out there. That's what we're asking. We appreciate all the efforts and donations people has put out," Davis said. "We love her."

McGuire's mother Betty Davis left a statement on the Bring Peggy Home Facebook page.

'I wish I knew where you are. I'm losing hope everyday that passes. If anyone knows anything about Peggy's disappearance please let someone know. Whoever left her truck at the Ice House knows what happened to her, bring Peggy home. Please I'm begging I want my baby girl.

'She don't deserve whatever happened to her. She loves her son and family, she just wouldn't up and leave. God please take care of Peggy.'

(This statement was edited for punctuation.)

Call the McIntosh County Sheriff's Department with information at: 918-689-2526.



## **Oklahoma Study of Native American** Pain Risk (OK-SNAP) **Healthy Research Participants Needed**



This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions. \$100/day will be provided to those who complete each testing day (\$200 total), or \$10/hour if the testing day is not completed.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

> For more information call: 918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565

You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys or on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology **Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is** conducting a University of Tulsa and Cherokee Nation IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT\*

- Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
- Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications
- Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications \*Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

**Investigators:** Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow





## Rock Creek Bar - Table Games - Electronic Games

Each Diamond Club member will receive a New Year's Eve hat and noise maker!



3420 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee OK 74401 Like us on Facebook! "MCNcasino" Follow us on twitter! "MCNcasino" www.creeknationcasino.net





#### COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the resolution, which passed 14-0.

GE Healthcare provides medical technology and is a subsidiary of General Electric.

• TR 15-204 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a purchase order and quotation on behalf of MCNDH with Zoll Medical Corporation. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

devices and software.

• TR 15-205 Authorizing the principal chief to execute rental agreements between MCN and ScriptPro for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement is aimed at helping MCNDH efficiently and effectively manage its services. ScriptPro supplies automated pharmacy services.

• TR 15-206 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a sales agreement between MCN and Siemens for the MCN Indian Health Facility. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The resolution allows a contract between MCNDH and Siemens for equipment and support services.

• TR 15-207 Approving the settlement of the MCN claims against the U.S. in Muscogee (Creek) Nation v. Jewell, et al., (D.D.C. Filed Dec. 20, 2006) (No. 06-CV-2161-TFH), and attesting the accuracy of trust account balances as stated in periodic statements of performance. Reps. Thomas Yahola and Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN filed suit against the U.S., raising trust accounting claims, trust fund mismanagement claims and resource mismanagement 14-0. claims and seeking relief and damages. MCN retained the Native American Rights Fund as legal counsel Dec. 30, 2013 through TR 13-182, in order to settle the suit. MCN and the U.S. have agreed to an \$8.386 million settlement.

• TR 15-208 Authorizing the construction and operation of a motor fuel and compressed natural gas station to be located on the northeast corner of Hwy. 75 and 181st Street in Glenpool. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

TR 02-066 and NCA 02-183 were approved to purchase the 19.6 acres of property for economic development. NCA 13-267 appropriated funds for two CNG stations. This property will serve as the location for one of those stations.

• TR 15-209 Authorizing the Cromwell Indian Community to explore the operation of the Cromwell Convenience Store. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN owns the former gas station, convenience store and restaurant located at Interstate 40 and Hwy. 56, near Cromwell. The legislation states that Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise does not wish to utilize the site.

Through the legislation, CIC would develop a business plan and feasibility study for the convenience store operation in order for the Council to determine if it will allow the community to operate the store.

• TR 15-210 Directing certain Healthcare. Barnett sponsored lease proceeds be remitted directly to the Nation. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-2 with Barnett and Randolph voting against it.

The Council passed TR 14-200, executing a lease agreement for a golf entertainment facility at the RiverWalk Development and that rent payments be made to Onefire Holding Company.

The resolution would change Zoll creates and sells medical this to have lease payments made directly to MCN instead of OHC.

> • TR 15-211 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a contract for construction with Bales Construction Services LLC for One Fire Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The contract is to replace an old storage building that has deteriorated and build a new one for the amount of \$83,250 in order to store equipment and sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment states the festival is committed to upholding Native traditions and assists Native artists with scholarships. The 30th annual Festival will be held Feb. 5-7, 2016.

 NCA 15-251 Authorizing a special \$50,000 appropriation to provide financial assistance to Muscogee (creek) traditional churches for heating expenses. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment states that it is difficult for citizens and churches to purchase propane due to high prices. It goes on to say that several churches also need assistance with their natural gas or electric bills during the heating months.

• NCA 15-252 Authorizing a \$1,250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

The amendment would provide financial assistance to citizen Augustine McNac in



Jessica McBride/MNN

A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Nov. 21 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

gaming documents.

• TR 15-212 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a photograph copyright release authorization to allow for publication of certain photographs of the Okmulgee Area. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored non-monetary trust asset or the resolution, which passed

> The resolution will allow photographs purchased by the Nation from the Creek Council House Museum Association to be published in 'Images of America.' In exchange for a fee, archival quality digital images of all of the photographs will be provided to the Nation.

> • TR 15-213 Authorizing OHC to participate in the construction and operation of a motor fuel and compressed natural gas station to be located on the northeast corner of Hwy. 75 and 181st Street in Glenpool. Rep. Pete Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

> The resolution states that MCN purchased the property in 2002 to be used for economic development. It states that OHC will participate in the construction and operation of the proposed fuel station.

• NCA 15-249 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment will provide financial assistance to citizen Larry Soweka for one month of rent payments, due to his home being unlivable. The legislation states that Soweka obtained two months of rent assistance through MCN Social Services and is not eligible for additional assistance at this time.

• NCA 15-250 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the 2016 Greater Tulsa Indian Art Festival. Reps. Mitch Jack and Barnett

order to help repair a camphouse at the Creek Chapel Methodist Church in Okemah that has been in her family since 1965.

• NCA 15-253 Amending NCA 10-026 (a law of MCN authorizing a special appropriation to the Salem/Ryal Elderly Nutrition Program to continue funding for the cook position) as expended or approved. amended by NCA 13-147. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment states that the Nation has been providing financial assistance to the program since 2001 and currently provides funding for the cook and assistant positions in the amount of \$23,000 annually. The amendment would provide an increase of \$7,920 in order for the workers to receive a raise.

• NCA 15-254 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent related to funds appropriated to the Tribal Construction Services Department in fiscal year 2015. Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

NCA 15-143 appropriated \$899,645 to the department for additional personnel and equipment. NCA 15-181 allowed the department to carry over the funds to the FY 2016 budget.

The amendment will allow the department to transfer funds from the personnel expense line item to purchase equipment and materials as well as cover building costs.

• NCA 15-255 Authorizing the expenditure of \$120,000 for the design of the MCN Department of Transportation maintenance facility shop. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

The amendment states that the department needs the shop to maintain the department's vehicles.

The department has the funds available in their budget to pay for the plans and the amendment will allow the department to expend the funds for this purpose.

 NCA 15-256 Appropriating \$20,000 for the 2016 Inauguration Ceremonies. Reps. Lucian Tiger and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The Inauguration Committee will consist of one designee each from the executive and legislative branches, the Council financial officer and the Tourism and Recreation Department director.

The amendment will allow the committee to utilize these funds to plan and host the Inauguration Ceremonies Jan. 2, 2016. Unused funds will be returned to the Tribal Treasury.

 NCA 15-257 Amending NCA 15-224 (a law of the MCN approving a continuing budget ordinance and providing for appropriations and authorization for expenditures for FY 2016) as amended by NCA 15-226. Tiger, Hill and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment states the continuing budget amendment previously passed needs to be amended to fund Ceremonial Grounds, Communities and Churches' Christmas activities.

The amendment will allow these activities to be funded at 100 percent of the FY 2015 approved budget.

Rep. Shirlene Ade was absent. The upcoming regular session is scheduled for Dec. 19.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing the principal chief' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: http://www.mcnnc.com, and the MCN Code Annotated is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www. creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our *experience and ability*.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law.

The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council. The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session. For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

#### Citizen helping **Oglala Sioux** build digital legal database

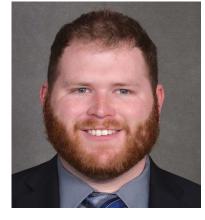


Photo submission

#### Franchek hopes service will be a model for other tribes

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "I like to talk," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jacob Franchek said. "I like to argue."

Franchek, who is in his second year at the Washington University of St. Louis School of Law, spoke about his aspiration to become a lawyer.

"It is very tough but enjoyable," Franchek said. "I love to work but it definitely has its ups and downs."

Franchek is working through Washington University in their partnership with the Oglala Sioux Nation to create an online searchable database for the tribe with their laws and court decisions.

The tribe is located on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Like other American Indian Nations, they have their own sets of laws and tribal courts.

They can make tribal resolutions but they are not easily accessible to citizens.

"The problem with that is that it makes the law uncertain," Franchek said. "It would make it very difficult to find it."

Franchek wanted to help his professor who is assisting with the database

"My professor, Steven Gunn, offered a summer program that deals with tribal law," Franchek said. "He is also a tribal attorney for the Oglala Sioux Nation."

Franchek reached out to Gunn because he wanted to get more experience.

"With the program, that is how I ended up helping with the database and with the Oglala Sioux," Franchek said.

Franchek said there are other paid database services available but theirs will be free.

"The databases that are out now, some are expensive and some are incomplete," Franchek said.

Franchek spoke about the enjoyment this project has brought

"I can't even begin to describe how honored I am," Franchek said. "It was a matter of luck. I happened to be going to law school the year that they want to do this."

Franchek felt that it was the right place at the right time.

"The anticipated time is three years from now to get everything done," Franchek said. "We have a lot of information that we have to codify and put in the system."

Franchek, hopes that this database will be brought to other American Indian tribes.

"I don't think you can overestimate how important this can be," Franchek said. "It would do all the tribes a huge service by getting this database for their Nation and for their people."

# Lamar: Little community, rich history

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist



LAMAR, Okla. — The small community of Lamar is located in the southernmost county of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction is home to 158 people. According to a booklet titled 'A History of Lamar,' a woman known simply as Mrs. Ralph Leach, wrote that Lamar began as a turnaround for the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company.





The town prospered because of the railroad and had a number of businesses but now all that can be seen of Lamar's hey day is the main street.





Even prior to the railroad, the Muscogee (Creek) people lived in the area and Tulmochussee Baptist Church existed south of town. My father used to tell me how he and his grandmother and mother would ride the train from Dustin to Lamar and walk the three miles to the church.







Tulmochussee meaning new nation or new town, originally started from Middle Creek #1 Indian Baptist Church located in near by Carson.







The initial congregation was organized in about 1870 and has experienced a metamorphosis, from a log cabin replaced by a modern building (pictured above middle photo) built in 1962, to the newest church and fellowship hall (pictured below).



## OKEMAH ACE OFFERS SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

OKEMAH, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) citizen owned Parks Brothers Ace Hardware Store at 100 W. Broadway PO Box 228 in Okemah is offering on-site small engine repair.

For more information contact the store at: 918-623-0772, parks\_scottacehardware@yahoo.com.



# MNN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Jan. 1, 2016 - Dec. 21

Jan. 15, 2016 - Jan. 7, 2016

Feb. 1, 2016 - Jan. 22, 2016

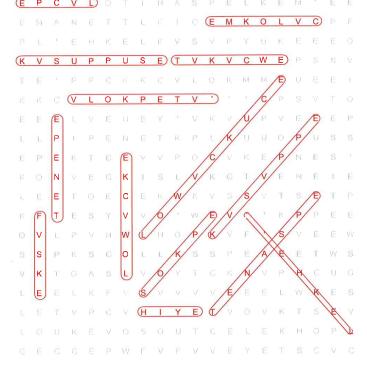
Feb. 15, 2016 - Feb. 5, 2016

March 1, 2016 - Feb. 22, 2016

March 15, 2016 - March 7, 2016

April 1, 2016 - March 24, 2016

# Dec. 1 word search solution



#### GERALDINE JOHNSON



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Geraldine, 'Geri' Johnson went to her eternal heavenly home Nov. 25, 2015 in Okmulgee. Geri was born March 20, 1947 in Oklahoma City at Deaconess Hospital to Neffie Grant Berryhill and Stella Hall.

She was raised by her grandmother, Celia Berryhill and attended school in Eufaula for 12 years. She was an 'EBS' Eufaula Boarding School girl.

During the summer of her junior year, she was sent to Washington, D.C., New York World's Fair and Princeton University. After graduation she attended Northeastern University for two years in Tahlequah. She went to Washington, D.C., to babysit for Thelma Harjo.

Thelma helped her get a job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs where she received a special assignment to work with the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Afterwards, she worked at Dartmouth College for the ABC Program, A Better Chance, in Hanover, N.H. Later she worked for the Office of Education in Washington, D.C. Upon returning to Okmulgee in 1977, Geri began working for Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

She was the first Head Start

Manager during the Cox Administration.

She then moved to Housing, where she worked for 21 years, from 1990-2012.

Geri was preceded in death by her: parents, Neffie Grant Berryhill and Stella Hall; honorary mother, Rose Marie Fields; brothers, Garry Berrryhill, Daniel Brown, Paul Johnson and sisters, Phyllis Brown, Wanda Mills, Bonnie Egan and Beverly Grummit.

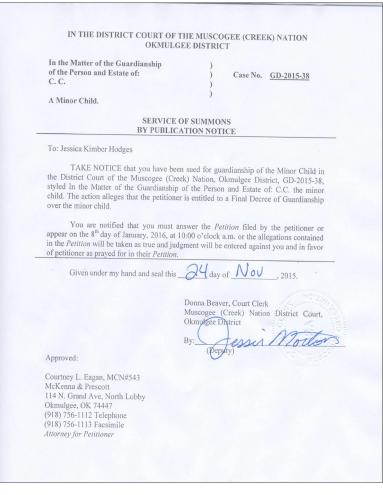
Survivors include her: husband, James Milton Johnson; stepson, James Milton Johnson Jr.; sister, Jessina Brown and brothers, Soloman Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Cy Johnson JR. and George Johnson.

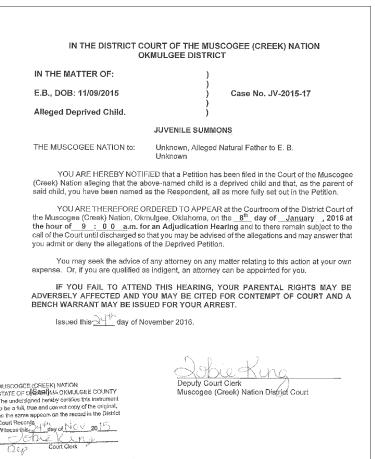
Pallbearers include: Landen Ashburn, Freddie Brown, Joseph Brown, Kayleb Brown, Bear Johnson, Keeper Johnson Jr., Mason MCClellan, and Christopher Torres.

Honorary pallbearers include: Garry Berryhill, Greg Berryhill, Buddy Cox, Garry Egan, Doug Freeman, Micco Freeman, Tommy Johnson, Butch LaSarge, Ivan Pulliam, Thomas Lee Roberts and Larry Joe Soweka.

Viewing was Dec. 1 at Schaudt's Funeral Home and the wake was held afterwards at Tallahassee Methodist Church. The funeral was Dec. 02 with Rev. Dave Long officiating at Tallahassee Methodist Church. Burial followed at Pleasantland Berryhill Family Cemetery off of Celia Berryhill road under the direction of Schaudt's Funeral Home.

Arrangements were entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service and Cremation Care. Family and friends may view the obituary and send condolences to the family online at: www. schaudtfuneralservice.com.





# LTPD receives federal grant

MCN/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department received a \$894,468 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The grant was awarded for coordinated tribal assistance solicitation public safety and community policing.

LTPD will use the funds for upgrades to the communication system and equipment for LTPD officers.

"We're very excited because it's going to help our agency be able to move forward with some of the equipment and items that we wanted to upgrade," LTPD Chief of Police Richard Fixico said. "We're definitely looking forward to it and excited to be able to obtained the well-needed equipment."

This is the first time in four years LTPD has received this grant.

"This grant will allow for our Lighthorse Tribal Police Department to purchase muchneeded equipment, which will give them the tools they need to continue to do the outstanding job they do," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. "I'm proud of all our officers and Lighthorse staff. They work around the clock to protect our Nation's most valuable assets – the Mvskoke People."

LTPD serves as the police branch for MCN, watching over MCN properties and coordinating with local policing agencies.

LTPD strives to safeguard the lives and property of the people and communities they serve.

